

## Diocese of Crookston Marriage Tribunal Application and *Libellus*

*Questions can be answered by calling (218) 281-4533 between the hours of 8:30a and 12:00p or 1:00p and 5:00p, Monday-Friday.*

- 1). A civil dissolution/divorce must have been finalized before this application can be accepted by the Tribunal.
- 2). The acceptance of this application will be delayed by missing information, especially the current address for your former spouse.

***You will need to consult and obtain the signature of your Priest, Deacon, or Pastoral Administrator before submitting this application.***

### SECTION A General Case Information

(Circle: Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms., Dr.)

1. Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle Initial) (Last)

(Maiden Name): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (County) (State) (Zip Code)

Is this your PERMANENT residence? \_\_\_\_\_ If NO, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (with area code): (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work/cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

3. List ALL of your marriages:  
 (Please include all marriages. Also, be sure to list the Catholic Church convalidation, or 'blessing', of any of these marriages.):

Name of Spouse (before your marriage):	DATE:	NAME of Church, Court, etc.
A. _____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Church / Court Street address) (County) (State)

B. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Church / Court Street address) (County) (State)

C. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Church / Court Street address) (County) (State)

4. HOW, WHEN and WHERE (e.g. place of divorce) did EACH marriage end?

Divorce, Death, Annulment	Date	Place (County & State)
A. _____	_____	_____
B. _____	_____	_____
C. _____	_____	_____

5. To which marriage does THIS APPLICATION refer? (Circle one): A or B or C

6. Have ANY of your prior marriages ever been brought to the attention of a church Tribunal or Chancery Office? \_\_\_\_\_

If YES, which one, when and where? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Is this a marriage that took place in a non-Catholic setting with the permission of the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_

If YES, what parish has the Catholic records? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Have you EVER been baptized, sprinkled or chistened? \_\_\_\_\_

If YES, in what religion? \_\_\_\_\_ Approximately when? \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of church: \_\_\_\_\_

What was your religion at the time of this marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Are you related to your former spouse by blood, adoption or as an in-law? \_\_\_\_\_

If YES, how? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Ages at the time of the marriage to which this application applies: Man: \_\_\_\_\_ Woman: \_\_\_\_\_

**FORMER SPOUSE INFORMATION**

11. PRESENT Legal Name of Your Former Spouse to Whom This Application Applies:

*(Reasonable efforts MUST be made to provide the address of your former spouse. Failure to do this will delay the case)*

(Circle: Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms. Dr.)

_____	_____	_____
(First)	(Middle Initial)	(Last)
(Maiden Name):		

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

_____	_____	_____	_____
(City)	(County)	(State)	(Zip Code)

Is this his/her only residence? \_\_\_\_\_ If NO, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (with area code): (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work/cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent(s) Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

12. How long did the two of you date before becoming engaged? \_\_\_\_\_

How long were you engaged before you were married? \_\_\_\_\_

13. How many children were born or adopted into the marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Approximate date when you and your former spouse finally separated (not the divorce): \_\_\_\_\_

15. Has your former spouse EVER been baptized, sprinkled or christened? \_\_\_\_\_

If YES, in what religion? \_\_\_\_\_ Approximately when? \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of church: \_\_\_\_\_

If NO, how do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the religion of your former spouse at the time of this marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION B

Information about your former spouse's prior marital history.

*This section is to be completed **ONLY IF** your former spouse had a prior marriage,  
That is, if the answer to question 16 is YES.*

16. Was your FORMER SPOUSE ever married to another person BEFORE marrying you? \_\_\_\_\_ **If NO, go to section C.**

17. How many times was your former spouse married before marrying you? \_\_\_\_\_

*If he/she was married more than once BEFORE marrying you,  
Please answer questions 18-21 for each of these marriages on separate pages and attach.*

18. Was your former spouse's PRIOR marital partner:

a) *alive* at the time you married your former spouse? \_\_\_\_\_ **If NO, go to section C.**

b) *alive* the entire duration of your marriage to your former spouse? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Was this marriage the FIRST for both parties? \_\_\_\_\_ If NO, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

20. Was your former spouse's earlier marriage ever declared invalid by the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_

21. Please provide the following information and/or documentation if at all possible.

Name of your former spouse's prior spouse (including maiden name, if a woman): \_\_\_\_\_

Religion of his/her prior spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of your former spouse's prior marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of the divorce: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION C**  
**Assessment of Marital Attitudes**

22. *At the time of the wedding, people have different attitudes and beliefs about what marriage means, as well as various abilities. The following statements are designed to help the Tribunal gain a better understanding of the abilities, attitudes and beliefs of you and your former spouse and to find appropriate grounds upon which to try your case. Please review each of the statements about your marriage and check the boxes that apply to you and/or your former spouse (F.S.). These items refer to **PRINCIPAL OR MAJOR** traits that you and your former spouse brought into the marriage. In any given section, you may check one box, several boxes or no box. There are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers. Based on your responses to these statements you may be sent a specific questionnaire to guide you in writing out your testimony. As part of the Tribunal process you will be asked to provide the names of witnesses who are able to corroborate your description of your marital situation.*

**Canon 1095 § 2: DEFECTIVE CONSENT DUE TO LACK OF DUE DISCRETION (Grave Lack of Discretionary Judgment):**

A person's ability to make a mature, stable, well-thought out decision to marry is essential for marriage. Because such a decision has life-long implications and intimately involves another person, reasonably mature adult powers of judgment are a necessary requirement. Such judgment presumes a certain knowledge, experience and maturity.

**YOU F.S. A. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- was not mature enough to understand what a commitment entailed;  
  was trying to get away from something unpleasant in our lives;  
  believed we were committed to the marriage because of dating for so long;  
  because of personality problems did not seriously consider what it would mean to be married to each other;  
  had serious doubts about whether this was a good decision;  
  did not realistically consider whether our relationship was strong enough for us to be married;  
  had little or no dating experience;  
  ignored the significant opposition of family and/or friends.

**Canon 1095 § 3: INABILITY TO ASSUME THE ESSENTIAL OBLIGATIONS OF MARRIAGE:** A person must be capable of doing what he/she intends to do. Factors which might render a person incapable of assuming the essential obligations of marriage include, for example, serious character or emotional disorders, substance abuse, and others.

**YOU F.S. B. At the time of our wedding or prior to, one or both of us:**

- had personal or family involvement with physical abuse, sexual abuse, alcohol or drug abuse;  
  had received or needed to receive counseling for a serious psychological disorder;  
  was unable to establish stability in a job, education, lifestyle or a relationship;  
  had a history of violence or other antisocial behavior;  
  could not accept personal responsibility for actions committed;  
  struggled with what would later be seen as an addiction (gambling, controlled substance, etc.);  
  expressed or experienced difficulties with sexual orientation;

**Canon 1101 § 1: TOTAL SIMULATION** In a deliberate way, a person does not intend what s/he says in the marriage vows (excluding marriage itself).

**YOU F.S. C. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- went through the marriage ceremony for a reason other than contracting marriage;  
  felt that a career was more important than marriage;  
  felt that the most important thing was personal happiness;  
  felt that we were creating an 'open marriage';  
  wanted to back out of the ceremony but could not do so;  
  had no example of a stable marriage while growing up;  
  did not intend to assume any permanent obligations toward the other person;  
  did not intend a marriage to give any permanent conjugal rights to the other person;  
  felt obliged to marry as a means to continue living together.

**Canon 1101 § 2: PARTIAL SIMULATION** (contra bonum proles) excluding an essential element or property of marriage e.g. children.

**YOU F.S. D. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- never intended to have children, although this may not have been discovered until after the wedding;
- would not have sexual relations unless birth control was used;
- intended to delay, limit or exclude children until our situation was financially secure;
- intended to delay, limit or exclude children until the marriage proved successful
- never intended to take any responsibility for the upbringing of children.

**Canon 1101 § 2: PARTIAL SIMULATION** (contra bonum fidelity) excluding an essential element or property of marriage e.g. fidelity.

**YOU F.S. E. At the time of our wedding, one or both us us:**

- believed sexual infidelity was acceptable for a reason (e.g., as long as there was no emotional involvement);
- believed occasional sexual infidelity was acceptable for a reason (e.g., as long as it remained hidden);
- believed sexual infidelity was acceptable as long as both parties agreed;
- was sexually unfaithful shortly before or shortly after the wedding.

**Canon 1101 § 2: PARTIAL SIMULATION:** excluding an essential element or property of marriage e.g. permanence.

**You F.S. F. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- grew up with the belief that divorce was an acceptable alternative to unhappiness in marriage;
- felt that divorce was a tolerable alternative to a lifelong unhappy marriage;
- felt that we could divorce in certain circumstances, such as adultery;
- felt that we would remain married as long as our love lasted.

**Canon 1102: CONDITION:** By placing a condition a person withholds consent. In such a situation, the person values the condition more than marriage itself. This person believe that without the presence of this condition, there is no marriage. (e.g. I marry you on the condition that this marriage is fulfilling to me, or I marry you on the condition that you will never be unfaithful to me.)

**You F.S. G. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- intended to be married only for as long as we felt we could be fulfilled;
- intended to be married only as long as we would be financially provided for in the marriage;
- intended to be married only for as long as some condition was true (e.g., virginity, education, social status, family involvement, freedom from alcoholism, freedom from physical abuse, ability to have children, etc.);
- intended to be married only as long as there was no infidelity.

**Canon 1103: FORCE OR FEAR:** Force refers to an external physical or moral coercion which cannot be resisted. Fear refers to persistent anxiety which is the result of impending danger or evil produced by physical or moral force. The fear must be grave, imposed from outside the person, and must be the cause of the marriage. Sometimes it arises out of a particular type of interpersonal relationship.

**You F.S. H. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- believed that because of a pregnancy there was no other option except marriage;
- believed that because we were sexually active with each other, marriage was inevitable;
- believed that because of parental objection(s) to our living together, marriage was the only alternative;
- was afraid NOT to get married, for one reason or another;
- decided to marry in order to avoid the displeasure of a person important to our situation.

**Canon 1096: IGNORANCE;** Ignorance is a lack of knowledge about something. Minimally, both parties must understand that marriage involves a permanent self-sacrificing community of life for the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children.

**You F.S. I. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- mistakenly believed that the other party was someone, or something, that he/she was not;
- did not understand that marriage could only be dissolved by the death of the spouse;
- did not understand that marriage imposed an obligation of absolute fidelity on both parties;
- did not understand that one of the primary purposes of marriage was the bearing and educating of children;
- did not understand that marriage involved the care of one's spouse;
- did not know or understand that marriage is not only a civil contract but also a spiritual union.

**Canon 1098: FRAUD:** This refers to a deliberate act of deception by which a person hides a significant quality from the other party in order to induce that person to marry. This quality must of its nature be capable of disrupting married life.

**You F.S. J. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- deceived the other about the real reason for marrying;
- concealed something that the other had a right to know because there would have been no wedding if it were known;
- found out something vital about the other party after our wedding, which, if known before the wedding, would have stopped the wedding from taking place;
- kept something secret before the wedding that later became disruptive of married life.

**K. (The following only applies to the marriage under consideration if it was 'blessed', or convalidated, in the Catholic Church, that is if your answer to question #6 was NO.) At the time of our marriage, one or both of us felt that our 'blessing of the marriage in the church' was:**

- a Catholic recognition of an already valid marriage ceremony that took place outside the Catholic Church;
- the first genuine and true marriage between myself and my former spouse;
- a blessing by the Catholic Church of an already genuine and true marriage by which the union became a sacrament or a spiritual covenant;
- a religious ceremony required by the Catholic Church for official recognition of the "marital union" between myself and my former spouse for the purpose of restoring the Catholic party to full communion;
- something that was unnecessary, but that we went through for some other reason (e.g., to get our child baptized, to satisfy our parents, etc.).

**L. Briefly state in your own words why the marriage under consideration ended:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION D**

Future marriage

23. Are you presently married (even if only civilly)? \_\_\_\_\_ Or are you planning marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

***If both answers to this question are NO, go to section E.***

24. LEGAL name (before marriage) of your *present/intended* marital partner:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Maiden Name): \_\_\_\_\_

25. Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

26. PRESENT religious affiliation of your *present/intended* partner: \_\_\_\_\_

27. If you are PRESENTLY married (even if only civilly), please indicate:

Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Church/Court / etc. City / County / State*

28. Was your *present/intended* marital partner ever married to another person (even if only civilly)

BEFORE marrying you? \_\_\_\_\_ ***If NO, go to Section E.*** If YES, number of times: \_\_\_\_\_

29. Was (Were) the marriage(s) declared invalid by the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** *If no ecclesiastical annulment was received for any previous marriages of your present/intended spouse or they were not terminated by death, a Declaration of Nullity by the Catholic Church MAY be needed. Please consult with the Tribunal staff.*

30. Are you or your partner enrolled in RCIA? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**SECTION E**

31. Are there any exceptional circumstances or situations involved with this case of which you feel the Tribunal staff should be aware? If YES, briefly describe them: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Priest, Deacon or Pastoral Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of Priest, Deacon or Pastoral Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

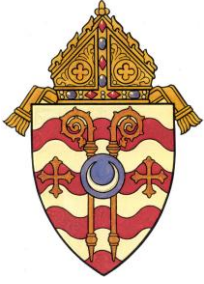
Parish Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**The following documents will be required. Please obtain them and attach to this application:**

- **Baptismal Certificate of both parties (especially of the Catholic party).**
- **Marriage Certificate (NOT the Marriage License).**
- **Complete Divorce Decree.**

<p><b>Return this application and the required documentation to:</b>  Marriage Tribunal  Diocese of Crookston  1200 Memorial Drive  P.O. Box 610  Crookston, MN 56716</p>
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**Retain a copy of this form for yourself**



Office of the Tribunal  
Diocese of Crookston  
P. O. Box 610  
Crookston, MN 56716

***Libellus***

I petition the Marriage Tribunal of the Diocese of Crookston to declare invalid, in accordance with the laws of the Roman Catholic Church, the marriage of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on the grounds of:

\_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

To establish these grounds I will offer a history of the relationship and I will provide the names and current addresses of three to four these witnesses.

**Petitioner:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

**Petitioner:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Respondent:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

For office use only:  
Date Received

For office use only:  
Date accepted by Judicial Vicar  
\_\_\_\_\_